

GROWTH OF A NATION: TRADING CARDS

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INTENDED AGE / SUBJECT AREA

Grades 7 – 10/ History, Creative Writing, Language Arts, Visual Arts. This can be a course-culminating activity to cover themes in the period from 1900-to the present or be modified for use as a unit activity for any era in Canadian history (such as the 50s, 60s 70s, etc.)

CONCEPTS

- growth and maturity of a nation; social, political, cultural, and economic growth

BACKGROUND

This activity should be introduced at the beginning of the Grade 10 history course. A planning sheet should be given to each student at that time so that they can record the two events/inventions/people that interest them after each unit of study. The challenge is to get the students to keep up with this. I recommend setting aside approximately 30 minutes at the end of each unit of study for the students to reflect on what has been learned and record on the planning sheet the two topics that they may be using for the trading cards. I also recommend holding on to these sheets for the students and redistributing them at the end of each unit so that the process can be repeated. In this way, each student will have a plan ready for this activity at the end of the course. There is a section on the planning sheet (see Appendix B) entitled “sources.” Encourage the students to record page titles of books and page numbers where the information of their topic is readily available.

INSTRUCTIONAL OUTCOMES

Students will:

- research and synthesize information
- understand and appreciate the events/people etc that have shaped Canada
- further develop analytical skills
- further develop paragraphing skills
- reflect on course material

RECOMMENDED TIMEFRAME

This activity should be introduced within the first two weeks of the course and is then on-going throughout the term.

ACTIVITY

Each student will create a package of 10 Canadian History Trading Cards. These cards can be the size of a card in a regular deck of playing cards, or larger. Cards may even be made into an interesting shape (something that symbolizes Canada, perhaps a beaver, maple leaf, canoe, map). These cards will be a visual representation of the history of Canada's growth and maturity into the great nation it is today. The front of each card will include a visual of the topic, while the back will include a written explanation in paragraph form. The first paragraph will include factual details, while the second will provide the historical

significance. The ten cards will be packaged as if they were for sale in a souvenir shop in Canada. (See Appendix C for student handout.)

MATERIALS / RESOURCES

- **Students will need to use their class textbook predominantly.**
- **Students should be encouraged to use the public library and/or school library to seek out books on Canadian inventions, famous people etc. to supplement the material in their textbooks.**
- **Bringing in a small, boxed game is a good way to remind students of what is needed as far as packaging a product. Point out the catchy title, description on back, bar code, price etc.**
- **Appendix A- Student Front-of-Card Samples**
- **Appendix B- Planning Sheet**
- **Appendix C- Student Handout**

About the Educator

Francesca Ianni is an energetic history teacher who wants her students to be fascinated by learning and to enjoy coming into her classroom. Francesca infuses her lessons with stories and anecdotes as well as historical facts to engage her students. Her innovative teaching style includes the use of role play, oral presentations, murals, posters and other creative assignments along with teaching the importance of understanding the process for writing a proper historical essay. Francesca simply wants her student to love learning as much as she does.



Appendix A

The front of two trading cards:

1. Internment of Japanese Canadians
2. Battle of Vimy Ridge



APPENDIX B

LAURIER ERA	WORLD WAR TWO	TWENTIES AND THIRTIES	WORLD WAR TWO	POST WAR TO THE PRESENT
Topic:	Topic:	Topic:	Topic:	Topic:
Historical Significance:	Historical Significance:	Historical Significance:	Historical Significance:	Historical Significance:
Sources:	Sources:	Sources:	Sources:	Sources:
Topic:	Topic:	Topic:	Topic:	Topic:
Historical Significance:	Historical Significance:	Historical Significance:	Historical Significance:	Historical Significance:
Sources:	Sources:	Sources:	Sources:	Sources:

APPENDIX C

Student Handout

The Grade 10 Canadian History course is designed so students can follow Canada through a growth process from the Laurier Era to the present. Through your studies it should now become evident that Canada has truly “unfolded” into a mature, responsible and strong nation.

However, this journey to maturity was not always one Canadians could be proud of. Some negative aspects of Canada’s development have emerged where the Canadian government or Canadian citizens made unjust or discriminatory decisions. But, like all growth, this was a learning process for Canada, and at this point in time, Canadians can say that there is much to be proud of.

For your culminating activity you are to create trading cards to commemorate the last 105 years of our great nation, Canada (1900-2005).

GUIDELINES

- 1. You must make 10 trading cards. Each may be the size of a card in a regular deck of cards.**
- 2. All 10 cards are to be packaged together (in a box of some sort) and must appear as they would if the product were for sale in a Souvenir Store.**
- 3. Cards #6 and #7 of the cards are to focus on positive aspects of Canada’s past. While cards #3 and #4 are to focus on the negative aspects of Canada’s past. (Event, person, invention, etc)**
- 4. Select the ten subjects from five different times in Canadian history (2 each) from:
 - 1. The Laurier Era**
 - 2. World War One**
 - 3. Roaring Twenties/ Dirty Thirties**
 - 4. World War Two**
 - 5. Post war to the Present****
- 5. The front of the card is a visual to represent the topic you have chosen. No words are needed on the front of the card, be creative and use the entire area. To keep the look crisp, a border is a good idea.**

The back of the card will have the title of the event, person, object, that is the focus of the card, clearly printed in a visible fashion.
- 6. The remainder of the back of the card is to be divided into two sections/ paragraphs of printing. The first section gives a brief history or explanation of the event, person, invention etc. The second section should explain how Canada**

grew into the nation that it is today partly because of the experience (or person or invention) you are describing. This is the historical significance for Canada.

Your mark will be based on creativity, neatness and appearance of the card and packaging. As well, your mark will reflect how you are able to express yourself in written form (summarizing, analyzing, and interpreting historical events)

Remember to pick topics that really made a difference for Canada and have helped shape the nation it is today.

EVALUATION:

Knowledge and Understanding (content in first paragraph on back of cards)

Thinking/Inquiry (content in second paragraph on back of cards)

Communication (card layout, packaging, neatness, clarity of thought, summarizing skills)

Application (card choices reflect an understanding of the concept of growth of Canada as a nation)